

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An endoscope apparatus comprising:
an elongated insert portion having flexibility,
the insert portion being inserted into at least a space
5 targeted for inspection;
an endoscope main body having an apparatus main
body used in combination with the insert portion;
an endoscope housing case which houses the
endoscope main body therein; and
10 an insert portion holding member to hold the
insert portion, the holding member being attachable
to/detachable from the endoscope housing case together
with the endoscope main body.
2. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,
15 wherein the insert portion holding member is provided
detachably from the endoscope main body.
3. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the endoscope apparatus is linked with the
apparatus main body via a connector portion, and is
20 composed of a scope unit comprising the insert portion.
4. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein the insert portion holding member is provided
detachably at the scope unit.
5. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 3,
25 wherein the insert housing portion is a housing portion
which houses the insert portion therein.
6. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein the housing portion is capable of housing an operating portion to operate the endoscope main body.

7. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the insert portion holding member is provided
5 to be fixed to the endoscope main body.

8. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the housing portion is formed by a tube fixed to the endoscope main body, and the insert portion is housed to be inserted into the tube.

10 9. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the insert portion holding member comprises a plurality of protrusions protruded at the endoscope main body, and the insert portion is supported to be wound around the protrusion.

15 10. An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a scope unit having flexibility, the scope unit being inserted into a space targeted for inspection to be observed and having a connector portion provided at a proximal end side thereof;

20 an apparatus main body being capable of constructing an integral endoscope main body by being assembled with the connector portion;

an endoscope housing case which houses the scope unit and the apparatus main body therein; and

25 an insert portion holding member which holds the scope unit, the holding member being attachable to/detachable from any one of the connector portion,

the endoscope main body, the apparatus main body, and the endoscope housing case.

11. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the scope unit is composed of: an elongated
5 insert portion having flexibility, the insert portion being inserted into at least a space targeted for inspection; an intermediate linking portion; and a universal cable.

12. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 10,
10 wherein the scope unit is held at the intermediate linking portion in a state in which a proximal end part of the insert portion and a distal end part of the universal cable portion are inclined to each other such that an axis of the proximal end part of the insert
15 portion crosses an axis of the distal end part of the universal cable portion.

13. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the scope unit comprises a manipulating device inserting channel in which the insert portion at one
20 end is opened at a distal end part of the insert portion, and the insert portion at the other end is opened at a proximal end thereof, and

the intermediate linking portion comprises a forceps inserting base connected to the manipulating
25 device inserting channel and having an axis which is coincident with an axis of the manipulating inserting channel.

14. An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a scope unit having flexibility, the scope unit being inserted into a space targeted for inspection to be observed, and having a connector portion provided at a proximal end part side thereof;

a connector portion which controls flexible bending and observation of the scope unit;

an apparatus main body capable of controlling the connector portion and constructing an integral endoscope main body by being assembled with the connector portion;

an endoscope housing case which houses the scope unit and the apparatus main body therein; and

an insert portion holding member which holds the scope unit and is provided at the endoscope main body.

15. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the insert portion holding member is a plurality of protrusions held to be wound around the scope unit.

16. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the insert portion holding member is composed of a tube wound in a spiral, and the scope unit is housed to be inserted into the tube.

17. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the scope unit has a feature for achieving flexible bending in an identical direction due to an action of the residual stress or permanent strain, and

can be formed in an annular shape of a substantially flat state due to winding of an equal diameter.

18. The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the insert portion holding member is provided
5 detachably at the apparatus main body.